



Trinity River Restoration Program

P.O. Box 1300, 1313 South Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093
Telephone: 530-623-1800, Fax: 530-623-5944

Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group

Arnold Whitridge, Chair
Safe Alternatives for Forest Environment

Serge Birk, Vice Chair
Central Valley Project Water
Association

Dr. Mary Ellen Mueller
Designated Federal Official
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Jeffery Bryant,
American Forest Resource Council

Tim Colvin,
Trinity Lake Resort Owners Association

E.B. Duggan,
Willow Creek Community Services District

James Feider,
City of Redding Electric Utility Department

Patrick Frost,
Trinity County Resource Conservation District

Zeke Grader,
Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's
Associations

Dan Haycox,
Miners Alliance

Dana Hord,
Big Bar Community Development Group

William Huber,
South Fork Trinity River CRMP

Kevin Lewis,
American Whitewater

Byron Leydecker,
California Trout, Inc.

Richard Lorenz,
Trinity County Resident

Charles Schultz,
Bureau of Land Management

Jimmy Smith,
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Dr. Elizabeth Soderstrom,
Natural Heritage Institute

James Spear,
Natural Resource Conservation Service

David Steinhäuser,
Trinity River Rafting, Inc.

Mike Ryan, Chairman
Trinity Management Council
c/o Trinity Restoration Program
P. O. Box 1300
Weaverville, CA 96093

April 23, 2003

Dear Mr. Ryan,

With 15 members present, the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group agreed unanimously yesterday to recommend that the TMC direct its member and subsidiary agencies, including state agencies, to ensure that this year's Trinity River flow schedule is "optimized" to achieve the best effects possible within existing legal and practical constraints.

We do not define "optimize" or endorse any specific adjustment to the currently programmed dry-year schedule; the recommendation is simply for careful TMC consideration of a flow schedule which may otherwise prove less satisfactory than it could be.

Both the Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Record of Decision (ROD) and the associated Implementation Plan (EIS/R appendix C) envision that the flow schedules prescribed in the ROD will be adjusted as conditions warrant, so long as the total prescribed volumes are not exceeded. As the TAMWG understands it, programmed release volume from Lewiston Dam is restricted this year by court order to a "dry-year" level of 453,000 acre feet, but the court has not prohibited the exercise of agency discretion as to the best use of this water. A decision seems to have been made with little discussion to release the authorized volume according to the ROD-prescribed dry-year hydrograph, even though the actual year-type is "wet"; we suggest that informed TMC discussion of possible adjustments is desirable.

We hope you'll arrange matters so that the TMC can consider specific recommendations from its internal experts on April 29, and that you'll prevent irreversible commitment to an unreviewed "default" schedule before then.

Sincerely,

Arnold Whitridge, Chairman
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group